

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 38 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1315

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA) at 1 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4568, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 674 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 674

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4568) making appropriations for the Department of Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI are waived except as follows: in title I, the sixth proviso under the heading "Wildland Fire Management," the final proviso under the heading "United States Geological Survey, Administrative Provisions," and section 113; in title II, the fourteenth proviso under the heading "Wildland Fire Management" and the final sentence of the sixth paragraph under the heading "Administrative Provisions, Forest Service"; in title III, section 317, the proviso in section 319, and sections 324, 328, 331, and 333. Where points of order are waived against part of a paragraph or section, points of order against a provision in another part of such paragraph or section may be made only against such provision and not against the entire paragraph or section. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee on the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of

whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Washington asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 674 is an open rule waiving all points of order against consideration of H.R. 4568, the Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2005.

The rule provides for one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The resolution provides, per the rules of the House, that the bill shall be read for amendments by paragraph. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI, which prohibits unauthorized appropriations or legislative provisions in an appropriations bill, are waived except as specified in the resolution.

The rule authorizes the Chair to accord priority recognition to Members who have preprinted amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The rule also provides for one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4568, the Department of Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2005, sets clear priorities in a year of tight budgets.

The chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies faced a difficult challenge and has written a solid bill that focuses on meeting the Federal Government's core responsibilities in the agencies under the subcommittee's jurisdiction.

Priority was given to essential functions and duties of these agencies, rather than on launching new initiatives and expanding government's reach.

One of the highest priorities must be preventing wildfires on our national lands. This bill provides \$2.6 billion for wildland firefighting in the National Fire Plan. This is a significant increase over fiscal year 2004, and it is a much-needed increase.

Wildfires have a dramatic impact on our public lands, on private property and, even tragically, on human life. We must maintain the commitment to working to prevent such blazes and combating them aggressively when they do strike.

Another priority must be providing for our existing parks and public lands. This bill increases funding for our national parks, a total of \$1.7 billion. For example, the bill includes \$471 million to address the backlog in maintenance at our national parks and places restrictions on travel expenses for Park Service officials, a common-sense policy during a time when our parks have serious maintenance needs. Addressing these maintenance needs is something that I have long supported.

The bill also includes increased funding over the fiscal year 2004 level for the Indian Health Service, the National Forest System, BIA Education and Operations of Indian Programs and the U.S. Geological Survey.

Funding is limited for Federal land acquisition, a decision on priorities that I strongly support. In a year of fiscal constraints, it certainly is appropriate to focus first on maintaining the Federal Government's existing lands.

Land acquisition is not a necessity. Indeed, it costs local governments through decreased tax revenue and has real impact on local governments' abilities to provide essential services.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentleman from North Carolina (Chairman TAYLOR) for his leadership in writing H.R. 4568, especially in this challenging year. The gentleman from North Carolina (Chairman TAYLOR) has guided this bill in a reasonable and responsible manner, which is especially appreciated in all areas of the West like the district I represent that are heavily impacted by the work of Federal agencies under his jurisdiction.

I also want to recognize the role that I know the ranking minority member of the subcommittee, my colleague from Washington State (Mr. DICKS), played in the preparation of this bill. I value highly our ability to work together on matters of importance to Washington State, and this is a good example of that. I know my colleague's dedication to solving challenges and bettering our Nation are traits he brings to all of his responsibilities here in the House.

So, Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this open rule, H. Res. 674, and the underlying Interior Appropriations bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. SLAUGHTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, the appropriations process for the coming